



# California Crop Weather

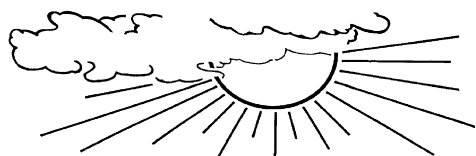
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: April 27, 2008  
RELEASED: April 28, 2008

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## WEATHER



On Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, a deep closed low over the Pacific Northwest moving into California set the weather pattern for early in the week. Daytime high temperatures on Monday ranged from the low 50s in the northern mountains to low 60s along the Central Valley. The Sacramento Valley, and surrounding mountains, and the San Francisco Bay Area received light to moderate precipitation on Tuesday and Wednesday. Nevertheless, the southern California coast and mountains did not receive any precipitation. The same pattern continued through Thursday, with some showers lingering along the northern Sierra Nevada due to the passage of a cold front through northern California. The weather started to change on Friday, when a ridge of high pressure brought warmer temperatures and clear skies. Daytime highs on Friday rose up to the low 80s along the valley and mid 60s in the surrounding mountains. Saturday and Sunday were the warmest days with high temperatures in the low to mid 90s along the Valley, upper 70s in the northern Sierra, and mid 80s along the San Francisco Bay Area. Riverside and Death Valley had the warmest temperatures in the State on Sunday, with 103 and 99 respectively.

## FIELD CROPS

**Barley, oat, wheat, and winter forage** harvests continued across the State. Winter wheat was fully headed in most areas. The first cutting of **alfalfa** was winding down and the second cutting was underway. Early **corn** and **cotton** planting and emergence continued. **Rice** field preparation and planting continued. **Mustard** seed was still in full bloom. **Sugar beet** harvest began. **Safflower** fields were in various stages of growth. Farmers remained concerned over water supplies.

## FRUIT CROPS

**Grapes** were leafing out in the warmer weather. Vineyards and orchards were irrigated due to dry conditions. In some areas grape growers were assessing frost damage that occurred because of unseasonably cold temperatures earlier in the week. Growers used water and wind machines to help curtail damage, but these tactics were not enough in some locations. Damage reports were also received for **apples, cherries, nectarines, pears, peaches, plums** and **prunes**. Losses in the northern areas of the State were most significant. Pears appeared to be hit the hardest. Damage to leaf canopies was widespread in some areas. Elsewhere, stone fruits were sizing normally, though a lighter fruit set has been observed in some locations. Some stone fruit orchards were being thinned. Color break on cherries was noted in Tulare County with harvest expected soon. Spring **strawberry** harvest moved forward. **Boysenberries** and **blueberries** were blooming. In isolated areas citrus growers also took measures to avoid frost damage to their groves. Harvests of **tangelos, grapefruit, mandarins, lemons** and Navel and Valencia **oranges** nonetheless continued. **Olive** buds were forming and bloom had already begun in Tulare County.

## NUT CROPS

**Walnuts** in some areas were damaged due to below freezing temperatures that occurred at the beginning of the week. The full extent of damage was not yet known. Blight treatments took place on walnuts. **Pistachio** pollination was underway.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Imperial Valley **melons** continued to set and early fields were about two weeks away from harvest. First of the market **onions** harvest began this past week and **sweet corn** harvest actively continued. In Fresno County, transplanting of bell **peppers, tomatoes** for fresh and processing markets, and melons continued. Most sweet corn plantings emerged. Tomatoes were showing good growth with caps removed. **Peas, peppers, cucumbers** and onions were also reported to be in good condition. Early **squash** had started to bloom. Farmer's market crops such as **amaranth, basil, bok choy, beets, leeks, kale, greens, and radishes** were being harvested. Cold morning temperatures earlier in the week produced some light damage on early planted vegetables like tomatoes, squash and peppers. In Kern County, **lettuce** harvest was close to being started. **Carrots** were irrigated, cultivated, treated with herbicides, and harvested. Peppers, **watermelons**, and tomatoes were growing **well**. In the Central Valley, **spinach** for the processing market was being harvested. Radicchio packing continued as did **asparagus** harvesting.

## LIVESTOCK

Lack of rain brought further decline of range and pastureland throughout the State. Supplemental feeding of cattle was still required. Cattle were shipped to irrigated pasture, higher-elevation pasture, and to market. Sheep continued grazing on retired farmland and alfalfa hay fields. Bees continued to pollinate blooming orchards, or were in holding areas awaiting placement. Some late movement of hives from almond orchards was reported. Placement of leafcutter bees near alfalfa seed fields continued.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 04/27/08

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 04/27/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 04/27/08	January 1 - 04/27/08	Week Ending 04/27/08	July 1 - 04/27/08	July 1 - 04/27/08	July 1 - June 30
<b>NORTH COAST</b>	- - Degrees Fahrenheit - -				- - Number - -		- - Inches - -			
Eureka	45	-7	56	35	43	0	1.15	37.15	36.38	37.53
Ukiah	53	-4	86	31	29	0	0.34	28.17	38.10	37.96
Santa Rosa	56	-2	87	34	50	0	0.30	24.57	30.04	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	57	0	77	44	36	0	0.06	16.00	19.92	19.70
San Jose	59	-2	86	40	64	7	0.04	11.37	14.67	14.42
Salinas AP	55	-2	80	38	38	0	0.18	11.02	12.53	12.44
Monterey FAA	56	1	76	40	31	0	0.04	7.61	14.57	18.72
King City	58	-1	90	33	53	0	0.01	9.35	12.00	11.44
Paso Robles AP	58	0	94	30	45	0	0.00	8.61	13.17	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	59	-3	90	32	90	22	0.44	24.09	32.42	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	60	-1	90	35	98	22	0.07	14.86	22.47	22.29
Chico AFS	57	-4	90	35	90	8	0.33	19.67	25.28	26.32
Marysville	57	-6	92	35	75	53	0.14	15.75	21.55	21.04
Sacramento AP	59	-1	91	36	66	9	0.00	13.67	17.33	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	60	-1	94	36	74	28	0.02	10.11	13.44	13.95
Fresno	63	-1	93	41	142	72	0.00	8.64	10.85	10.60
Bakersfield	63	-2	94	38	169	105	0.00	2.45	6.26	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	56	0	88	35	43	0	0.00	11.61	13.93	12.36
Santa Barbara	61	3	91	39	83	0	0.00	15.83	17.10	16.25
Ventura	60	60	94	38	118	0	0.00	13.24	15.19	14.38
Los Angeles	68	3	95	50	322	190	0.00	13.41	14.97	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	224	68	0.00	6.31	10.44	9.58
San Diego AP	65	2	94	53	156	94	0.00	7.26	10.57	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	54	-2	83	20	0	0	0.00	7.25	4.64	5.37
Lancaster	61	0	87	36	44	8	0.00	7.86	7.72	6.92
Daggett AP	67	-1	89	45	260	200	0.00	2.58	4.05	3.93
Thermal AP	76	3	100	51	694	519	0.00	3.58	3.54	3.16
Blythe	74	0	96	51	635	555	0.00	1.96	4.06	3.60
Imperial	73	0	96	50	607	558	0.00	2.37	2.98	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	42	-3	77	19	0	0	0.25	9.07	10.40	12.01
Mt. Shasta	46	-2	78	27	0	0	0.51	28.83	37.44	37.02
Blue Canyon	46	0	70	26	6	0	0.64	36.97	63.38	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	16	0	0.00	15.74	36.40	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes (- -) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.